Dear Mr. Volz,

8/15/72

If I'd known you were going to call, I'd have collected my thoughts better. Other things had occupied me all day and after getting home. And If I'd not had to get up at 5 a.,. I'd have been more alert and perhaps more helpful.

Where I had to stop short it was more than preserving confidentiality, tho I'm sure you realize that is more than enough. If you do as I suggested, it should not take you more than an hour. I figured it out without moving from my desk and I confirmed it later, with no trouble at all.

As you must have noticed, I am pretty free on my phone. However, it is not because there are no interests in me. I can show you carbons of official espionage on me. So, when I deal with others, I feel I must be careful not to cause them any trouble or run even the slight risk of it. For this reason alone I could mention no source.

Thus I had to almost mislead you on the Mexican reporter. I didn't correct you when you spoke of a man. It is a woman, and a damned good and locally well-connected reporter.

If I were working on this story, one of the things I'd be checking back on now is who did what leaking. The Department of Disinformation did rather well. Example, bum war names for Hunt and Barker. Once this was leaked, nobody did the obvious check Haynes Johnson's definitive work. No such code names are in his Bay of Pigs. Example 2: Ameritas, which led everyone in the wrong way but seemed legit. Example 3, the misleading information so accomodatingly provided on the out-of-date electronic equipment. Need more?

I believe the FCC licenses are public information. I'm certain you'll find at least one more transceiver licensed for the frequencies of the two on the five when arrested. If there were two there, this means the party at some point had divided or was going to but had to remain in contact. If you find only one more licensed on those frequencies, you may have trouble finding out who had it that night, but I think the Caddy explanation I gave you makes more sense than anything I've seen, and McCord a) had controlx of all this committee equipment and b) has his own lawyer, separate from the others and much more costly than he can afford, F. Lee Bailey.

I am enclosing my last extra copies of the Hunt bio material, sources indicated.

Most people don't realize it, and it may in this case be irrelevant, but many Batista millionaires got their millions to Florida. So, well-placed rumors there could have produced much money.

I really do think you should get the dust-jacket pictures of Hunt and check with some Bay of Pigs (and other) vets. If he is the guy who engineered that fiasco and he then became a White House adviser who could not possibly have done the work allegedly assigned to him, there is an entirely different kind of story if you recall the real inside story of the Bay of Pigs. Bender represented one of two factions in the men preparing for that caper. Some of the others were treated with bestiality and may be interested in getting even. I know at least one solid citizen who was captured at the Bay of Pigs. He would know.

Should you have to make a hasty check on any New Orleans characters, the librarian at the papers (States-Item and Times-Picayune same, newhouse, ownership) is a good one and a nice guy, Warren Hardelle.

In my work on the Kennedy assassination and more, on its investigation, I have found it helpful to keep two books in mind: Alice in Wonderland and The Purloined Letter. You will, I think, find this helpful in following some of the leads I gave you and you will not surprise me one bit if you find that Hunt was working for Pullen before he left the CIA.

Meanwhile, I suggest that the FBI investigation is compromised by the lingering Moveronque concept of self: McCord was one of their boys. Need you know more than what they omitted from the Fiorini reports I gave you? Not because they didn't know it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Mr. Volz, add a.m. 8/16

There are some common misconceptions about some of us who have worked on and are interested in the political assassination. One, foisted off by Batista Cubans, is that we are all against Cubans. In my case at least this is not so, and because I have invited you to look at my files on some because they may later be part of the story, I address this.

There are some I think dignified by the insult "gusano". These are criminal types, self-seeking, ambitious to enjoy the kinds of privelege they did under Batista at the cost of others, sadists and men of belief that would be considered insanity here. These are often Hitlerites. There are others who are decent people, including some who here would be considered tough characters. Some are my friends. Generally, they are anti-Castro and anti-Batista. Among my Cuban acquaintances and friends there is none pro-Castro and only one who says things are better under Castro, and he is now a successful American businessman. He drove me around in a brand new Cadillac for which he paid cash, had his daughter in a private school, etc., and regard this as his country now. I have known and been friends with Bay of Pigs vets, one of whom has risen to high station in the large city in which he lives and does his job well. Another was also a CIA agent and when last I saw him was in trouble with the Agency. Some of the more learned are the more incredible.

They do incredible things. One filed a libel suit against me without alleging error and, in fact, claiming that accuracy was the libel, that his business was hurt by my saying he owned it because it would reduce the number of his customers if they knew he owned it! The case was tossed out of court, but investigating it led me to much of my knowledge of these often such strange people. I have a file on that man at least three inches thick. He is a pal of General Walker and Billy James Hargis and other such types.

Many of them have genuine hatred for our institutions and consider that political philosophy. What they genuinely do believe is the hardest thing about them to comprehend. Some of their beliefs are so insane it makes them capable of anything. I think this is one of the keys to understanding some of the things they do.

In both Kennedy assassinations, had they coordinated their efforts to dilute the effectiveness of the FBI and to frustrate any investigation in the earlier days they could not have done this better. They reported Oswald everywhere but Heaven, and the FBI had to investigate each of the numberless bum steers. And this at a time others things had to be neglected and were not. In turn, Warren Commission lawyers were influenced by this crazy stuff and the only Cubans of whom they ordered investigations are those <u>not</u> nuts. It is all pretty farout to one who hasn't had experience with them.

Harold Weisberg